

Civilian Care Referred By MHS Facilities

Chapter

9

III. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Contractor Receipt and Control of SHCP Claims

1. Post Office Box

The contractor may at its discretion establish a dedicated post office box to receive claims and correspondence related to the Supplemental Health Care Program (SHCP). This dedicated box, if established, may be the same post office box which may be established for handling TRICARE Prime Remote and Non Referred Care claims, as discussed in [OPM Part Three, Chapter 8](#) and [10](#).

2. Claims Processing

a. Claims Processing and Reporting

Regardless of who submits the claim, supplemental health care claims will be processed using the same standards in the OPM Part One, [Chapter 1](#), unless otherwise stated in this chapter. The contractor for the Region in which the patient resides shall process the claim to completion. The claims tracking and retrieval requirements of [OPM Part One, Chapter 1, Section III.B.1.](#) apply equally to SHCP claims. Reports on the timeliness of processing supplemental health care claims, as required under [Section III.J.](#) of this chapter, are due to each MTF no later than the *fifteenth (15th)* calendar day of the month following the reporting period.

b. Civilian Services Rendered to MTF Inpatients

Claims for MTF inpatients referred to a civilian facility or internal resource sharing provider for medical care (test, procedure, or consult) shall be processed to completion without application of a cost share, co-payment, or deductible. Nonavailability statements shall not be required. Costs for transportation of current MTF inpatients by ambulance to or from a civilian provider shall be considered medical costs and shall be reimbursed, as shall costs for inpatient care in civilian facilities. Additionally, claims for inpatients who are not TRICARE eligible (e.g. Service Secretary Designee, parents, Medicare patients not enrolled in TRICARE Senior Prime), will be paid based on MTF authorization despite the lack of any DEERS indication of eligibility. These are SHCP claims.

c. Outpatient Care

Outpatient civilian care claims are to be processed according to the patient's enrollment status (see [Section III.C.](#)). If the patient is TRICARE eligible, normal TRICARE processing requirements will apply.

d. Emergency Civilian Hospitalization

If an emergency civilian hospitalization becomes necessary during the test or procedure referred by the MTF and comes to the attention of the contractor, it will be reported to the Patient Administration Department of the referring MTF. The MTF will have primary case management responsibility, including authorization of care and patient movement for all civilian hospitalizations.

e. Claims Processing Within Alaska

The current contractual agreements with the California and Hawaii contractor will provide services and support to the TRICARE Pacific Support Office Alaska (e.g., TRICARE Service Center support, Health Care Information Lines and claims processing). The contractor *shall* process these claims using the agreed upon interagency rates for reimbursement.

f. Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP)

Claims for participants in the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP) will be processed based on the MTF authorization. These claims are SHCP claims, but will be maintained and tracked separately from other SHCP claims. It is the responsibility of the MTF to identify such referrals as CCEP referrals to the Health Care Finder at the time of authorization.

g. Foreign Claims Processing

(1) Process claims received by the *contractor* for patients covered by reciprocal host nation health care agreements in accordance with the current requirements of the Operations Manual and the Policy Manual.

(2) Forward claims received for personnel permanently assigned to an overseas location to the appropriate overseas claims processor for processing.

3. Contractor Verification

a. The contractor shall verify that care provided was authorized through the contractor's Health Care Finder mechanism. If an authorization is not on file, then the contractor will place the claim in a pending file and will verify authorization with the servicing TRICARE Service Center (TSC). The TSC will determine if there has been an authorization error. If so, the TSC will enter the authorization and notify the contractor to process the claim for payment. If not, the TSC will contact the MTF for authorization/denial. If the MTF retroactively authorizes the care, then the TSC will enter the authorization and notify the contractor to process the claim for payment. If the MTF determines that the care was not authorized, the TSC will notify the contractor and an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) denying the claim will be initiated.

b. For outpatient active duty and non-TRICARE eligible patients, and for all SHCP inpatients, there will be no application by the contractor of the Central Deductible and Catastrophic Cap File (CDCF), Third Party Liability (TPL), or Other Health Insurance (OHI) processing procedures, for supplemental health care claims. Normal TRICARE rules will apply for all TRICARE eligible outpatients' claims. Outpatient claims for non-enrolled Medicare eligibles will be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor.

B. Coverage

1. Normal TRICARE coverage limitations will not apply to services rendered to supplemental health care patients. Services that have been authorized will be covered regardless of whether they would have ordinarily been covered under TRICARE

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policy. On occasion a referral may be made for services from a provider of a type which is not TRICARE authorized. Customary TRICARE utilization review and utilization management requirements will not apply.

2. Unlike a normal TRICARE authorization, an MTF authorization shall be deemed to constitute referral, authorization, eligibility verification, and direction to bypass provider certification and NAS rules. Contractors shall take measures as appropriate to enable them to distinguish between the two (2) authorization types.

3. Within the category of SHCP, the contractor shall identify referrals by the MTF for the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP). The contractor shall take measures as appropriate to distinguish these claims from other SHCP claims.

4. Pharmacy

Claims for prescription pharmacy costs from eligible uniformed service members that are incurred as the result of an episode of care covered by this chapter are authorized for payment by the contractor. Claims unrelated to the episode of care are not covered by this chapter unless specifically authorized by the MTF and are not authorized for payment by the contractor. If there is a question as to whether the claims are related to a particular episode of care, the contractor shall contact the MTF. The MTF has two (2) working days to determine if the pharmacy claim is appropriate for the particular episode of care. If the contractor does not receive the MTF's response within two (2) work days, the contractor will assume the pharmacy claim is valid and enter the contractor's authorization into the claims processing system and, if required by contract, into the designated CHCS platform. Medications for long-term, chronic conditions existing prior to MTF referral are not covered by this chapter and are not authorized for payment by the contractor, unless specifically authorized by the MTF. Over-the-counter (OTC) medications are not covered.

C. Enrollment Status Effect on Claims Processing

1. Active duty claims *shall* be processed without application of a cost-share, co-payment, or deductible. These are SHCP claims.

2. Claims for TRICARE Prime enrollees who are not in MTF inpatient status shall be processed with the application of the appropriate TRICARE copays. These are TRICARE claims and not SHCP claims.

3. Claims for TRICARE eligibles, who are not enrolled in Prime, and who are not in MTF inpatient status, shall be processed in accordance with TRICARE Extra or Standard procedures. These are TRICARE claims and not SHCP claims.

4. Claims for TRICARE Senior Prime enrollees shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of [OPM Part Two, Chapter 20, Section N.](#), TRICARE Senior Prime. TRICARE Senior Prime copayments will apply. These are not SHCP claims.

5. Claims for services provided under the current Memoranda of Understanding between the Department of Defense (including Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the Department of Health and Human Services (including the Indian Health Service, Public Health Service, etc.) are not covered. These are not SHCP claims.

6. Claims for services not included in the current Memoranda of Understanding between the Department of Defense (including the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the Department of Health and Human Services shall be processed in accordance with the requirements in this chapter. The facility is required to submit the same certification currently used for TRICARE claims to document that the service was not included in the MOU. These are SHCP claims.

7. Claims for services provided under the current Memoranda of Understanding between the Department of Defense (including the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) are not covered. These are not SHCP claims.

8. Claims for services not included in the current Memoranda of Understanding between the Department of Defense (including the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall be processed in accordance with the requirements in this chapter. The DVA facility is required to submit the same certification currently used for TRICARE claims to document that the service was not included in the MOU. These are SHCP claims.

9. Claims for participants in the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP) shall be processed for payment solely on the basis of MTF authorization. There will not be a cost share, co-pay or deductible applied to these claims. These are SHCP claims.

10. Claims for non-TRICARE eligibles shall be processed for payment solely on the basis of MTF authorization. There will not be a cost share, co-pay or deductible applied to these claims. These are SHCP claims.

11. Outpatient claims for non-enrolled Medicare eligibles will be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor. These are not SHCP or TRICARE claims.

D. Medical Records

The current contract requirements for medical records shall also apply to ADSMs in this program. Narrative summaries and other documentation of care rendered (including laboratory reports and X-rays) shall be given to the ADSM for delivery to his/her PCM and inclusion in his/her military health record. The contractor shall be responsible for all administrative/copying costs. Under no circumstances will the ADSM be charged for this documentation.

E. Reimbursement

1. Allowable amounts are to be determined based upon the TRICARE payment reimbursement methodology applicable to the services reflected on the claim, (e.g. DRGs, mental health per diem, CMAC, or TRICARE network provider discount). Reimbursement for services not ordinarily covered by TRICARE and/or rendered by a provider who cannot be a TRICARE authorized provider shall be at billed amounts.

2. Cost sharing and deductibles shall not be applied to supplemental health care claims for MTF referred services rendered to uniformed service members, to

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other MTF referred patients who are not TRICARE eligible, or to patients who receive referred civilian services while remaining in an MTF inpatient status.

3. Referred patients who have been required by the provider to make “up front” payment at the time services are rendered will be required to submit a claim to the contractor with an explanation and proof of such payment.

a. Supplemental health care claims for uniformed service members and all MTF inpatients receiving referred civilian care while remaining in an MTF inpatient status shall be promptly reimbursed and the patient shall not be required to bear any out of pocket expense. If such payment exceeds normally allowable amounts, the MTF or the patient may request an exception to payment limitations from the Executive Director, TRICARE Management Activity (AM&S) or a designee. As a goal, no such claim should remain unpaid after *thirty (30)* calendar days.

b. All other claims *shall* be subject to the appropriate TRICARE copayment and deductible requirements, and to TRICARE payment maximums. Claims for non-enrolled Medicare eligibles *shall* be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor.

4. In no case shall a uniformed service member who has acted in apparent good faith be required to incur out-of-pocket expenses or be subjected to ongoing collection action initiated by a civilian provider who has refused to abide by TRICARE requirements. (The determination whether a member has acted in good faith rests with the Uniformed Services.) For example, a provider might continue to pursue the service member by “balance billing” for amounts which are clearly in excess of the amount which he had previously agreed to accept as payment in full. When the contractor becomes aware of such situations, they shall initiate contact with the Uniformed Service point of contact (*Addendum A*) so that action appropriate to the particular situation can be undertaken. On an exception basis, such action might include specific authorization by the Uniformed Service to pay additional amounts to the provider. In this instance, a waiver from the Executive Director, TRICARE Management Activity (AM&S), or a designee, must be initiated by the Uniformed Service for authority to make payment in excess of CMAC or other applicable TRICARE payment ceilings. The contractor and the Government shall act in concert as promptly as possible to issue appropriate payment. As a goal, no such claim should remain unpaid after *thirty (30)* calendar days.

F. End of Processing

1. Explanation of Benefits

An Explanation of Benefits (EOB) shall be prepared for each supplemental health care claim processed, and copies sent to the provider and the patient in accordance with normal claims processing procedures. EOBs for TRICARE eligible beneficiaries' outpatient claims will include any applicable standard TRICARE EOB messages. For all claims pertaining to civilian services rendered to an MTF inpatient and for all other claims for which the MTF has authorized supplemental health care payment, the EOB will include the following statement, “This is a supplemental health care claim, not a TRICARE claim. Questions concerning the processing of this claim must be addressed to the TRICARE Service Center.” Any standard TRICARE EOB messages which are applicable to the claim are also to be utilized, e.g. “No authorization on file.”

2. Appeal Rights

For supplemental health care claims, the appeals process in [OPM Part Three, Chapter 7](#), applies, as limited herein. If the care is still denied after completion of a review to verify that no miscoding or other clerical error took place and that the MTF will not authorize the care in question, the notification of the denial shall include the following statement: "If you disagree with this decision, please contact your Service Point of Contact at (xxx) xxx-xxxx" (insert the appropriate SPOC's number)." Normal TRICARE appeal rights shall pertain to outpatient claims for treatment of TRICARE eligible patients.

G. Claims Payments and Contractor Reimbursement

1. Regions 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 and Central (formerly Regions 7 & 8)

a. Referred Care for MTF Inpatients

Providers, patients or Services (e.g., MTF) *shall* forward medical claims to the contractors for payment to the provider or patient. The contractors shall forward the vouchers to the TRICARE Management Activity, Office of Contract Resource Management, for not-at-risk reimbursement via Letter of Credit (LOC).

b. Referred Care for MTF Outpatients

Providers, patients or Services (e.g., MTF) will forward medical claims to the contractors for payment to the provider or patient. Contractors shall forward a voucher to the TRICARE Management Activity, Office of Contract Resource Management, for not at risk reimbursement of health care costs under the supplemental health care program via a LOC for uniformed service members, and non-TRICARE eligibles with MTF authorization. TRICARE copayment, cost shares, or deductible rules shall apply, according to enrollment status, to TRICARE eligibles who are not in MTF inpatient status. Claims for non-enrolled Medicare eligibles will be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor.

2. Regions 1, 2, and 5

a. Referred Care for MTF Inpatients

Providers, patients or Services (e.g., MTF) shall forward medical claims to the contractors for reimbursement. Contractors shall forward a single consolidated voucher to the referring MTF with accompanying claims data on a monthly basis, if the referring MTF is within the region. If the referring MTF is not within that contractor's region, but still within Regions 1, 2 or 5, the contractor shall forward the voucher and claims data to the referring MTF. When the referring MTF is not within that contractor's region, and outside Regions 1, 2 or 5, the contractor shall forward the voucher and claims to the TRICARE Management Activity, Office of Contract Resource Management, for not at risk reimbursement via Letter of Credit (LOC). MTFs will forward vouchers and receiving reports to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for payment to the contractors.

b. MTF Referred Outpatient Care

Providers, patients or Services (e.g., MTF) shall forward medical claims to the contractors for reimbursement. Contractors shall forward a single consolidated

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voucher to the referring MTF (if it is within their region) with accompanying claims data on a monthly basis for uniformed service members, non-TRICARE eligibles with an MTF authorization for payment under supplemental health care, and for TRICARE MTF Prime enrollees. MTFs shall pay the contractors based on vouchers. If the referring MTF is not within that contractor's region, but still within Regions 1, 2 or 5, the contractor shall forward the voucher and claims data to the referring MTF. When the referring MTF is not within that contractor's region, and outside Regions 1, 2 or 5, the contractor shall forward the voucher and claims data to the TRICARE Management Activity, Office of Contract Resource Management, for not-at-risk reimbursement via Letter of Credit (LOC). Contractors are fiscally responsible for all TRICARE eligibles who are not MTF Prime enrollees and reside in their region. Claims for non-enrolled Medicare eligibles will be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor.

H. Voucher

Contractors shall report supplemental health care claims on separate vouchers from normal TRICARE claims. Claims for the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP) *shall* be reported separately from other SHCP claims and from normal TRICARE claims. The ADP Manual reflects the correct Voucher Branch of Service to be used for supplemental health care and Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP) claims.

I. HCSR Submittal

The HCSR data *shall* be submitted to TMA (Acquisition Management and Support) similarly to HCSRs for other types of care. The HCSR data for each claim must reflect the appropriate data element values. The appropriate codes published in the ADP Manual are to be used for supplemental health care claims. MTF DMIS ID codes are to be reported based upon the code of the MTF authorizing the services (referral MTF). The enrollment DMIS ID from DEERS *shall* be used only if there is not a referring MTF DMIS ID code.

J. Required Reports

Summary reports reflecting government dollars paid for supplemental health care claims shall be prepared and submitted to each Service Headquarters every month. Separate reports shall be produced for services rendered to Army National Guard members. All reports described below shall be submitted both in hard copy and in electronic media in an Excel format. Payments for CCEP claims shall be reported separately. A separate report of payments on behalf of non-DoD patients shall also be prepared and forwarded to TRICARE Management Activity, Managed Care Support Operations Branch. Summary and detailed reports (also reflecting government dollars paid) for each month will be prepared and submitted to each referring MTF. These reports will be submitted no later than the *fifteenth (15th)* calendar day of the month following the reporting period. SHCP and CCEP reports will reflect total care paid, and the total dollar amount contained in data elements (a.) through (o.) below, will equal the total amount requested for reimbursement from TMA, Office of Contract Resource Management for each report. For those data elements in items (a.) through (o.) below which require a count, the contractor must ensure that no workload is double counted. Data elements to include in the reports are:

1. Summary Reports by Branch of Service to Service HQ and TMA (MCC)

- a.** DMIS ID Code
- b.** Total Number and Dollar Amount of Claims Paid
- c.** Inpatient Dollars Paid - Institutional
- d.** Inpatient Dollars Paid - Professional Services
- e.** Outpatient Dollars Paid - Clinic Visits (Professional and Ancillary Services)
- f.** Outpatient Dollars Paid - Ambulatory Surgeries/Procedures - Professional
- g.** Outpatient Dollars Paid - Ambulatory Surgeries/Procedures - Institutional
- h.** Total Admissions/Dispositions
- i.** Total Bed Days/LOS
- j.** Total Ambulatory Surgeries/Procedures, including all Ancillary
- k.** Total Outpatient Visits, excluding Ambulatory Surgeries but including all Ancillary related to the outpatient visits
- l.** MDC/CPT Codes/DRG/ICD-9-CM Codes
- m.** Total Prescription Dollars Paid
- n.** Number of prescriptions by generic drug name
- o.** Other items paid

2. Detailed Reports for Each MTF

- a.** Patient DMIS ID Code (enrollment DMIS)
- b.** Referral DMIS ID code
- c.** Patient Name/SSN
- d.** Sponsor SSN
- e.** Age/Sex/Beneficiary Category
- f.** MTF PCM (if available)
- g.** Referring provider (if available)
- h.** Civilian Provider's Name/Provider ID#
- i.** Dates of Care (Outpatient or Inpatient Admission)

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- j.** Care End Date (FY - Month)
- k.** Admitting Diagnoses (Primary/Secondary)
- l.** Dispositioning Diagnoses (Primary/Secondary)
- m.** MDC/CPT Codes/DRG/ICD-9-CM Codes Related to Inpatient Claim
- n.** Total Bed Days/Length of Stay (Inpatient)
- o.** Inpatient Institutional \$ Paid
- p.** Inpatient Professional \$ Paid
- q.** MDC/CPT Codes/ICD-9-CM Codes Related to Outpatient Claim (including Professional and Ancillary Services)
- r.** Outpatient Clinic \$ Paid (Including Professional and Ancillary Services)
- s.** MDC/CPT Codes/ICD-9-CM Codes Related to Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure Claim (including Professional and Ancillary Services)
- t.** Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure \$ Paid (Professional)
- u.** Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure \$ Paid (Institutional)
- v.** Total Prescription Dollars Paid
- w.** Number of prescriptions by generic drug name

3. Additional Reports

a. The contractor shall produce monthly pharmacy, workload and timeliness reports for the SHCP. If the contractor has more than one regional contract, it shall produce separate reports for each contract. The reports shall cover the period beginning on the first (*1st*) day of the month and closing on the last day of the month. The reports are due on the fifteenth (15th) calendar day of the month following the month being reported.

b. The contractor shall prepare a cover letter when forwarding reports, which shall identify the reports being forwarded, the period being reported, the date the cover letter is prepared by the contractor, and a contractor point of contact should there be any questions regarding the reports.

c. Workload Reports

(1) The contractor shall prepare and submit a monthly SHCP claims workload report for each branch of service (to include Army National Guard separately), as well as one workload report which shows the cumulative totals for all services. The branch of service shall be determined by the service affiliation of the referring MTF and not by the branch of service of the active duty member. The following data shall be included in the workload reports:

- (a) Beginning Inventory of Uncompleted Claims
- (b) Total Number of New Claims Received
- (c) Total Number of Claims Returned
- (d) Total Number of Claims Processed to Completion
- (e) Ending Inventory of Uncompleted Claims

NOTE:

Ending inventory of uncompleted claims must equal the beginning inventory of uncompleted claims plus total number of new claims received minus total number of claims returned minus total number of claims processed to completion.

(2) The contractor shall send a copy of the monthly Workload Reports to the TMA, Chief, Contractor Evaluation Office. The contractor shall also send a copy of each Service's monthly report to the respective Service Project Officer identified in [Addendum A](#).

d. Timeliness Reports

(1) The contractor shall prepare and submit a separate monthly cycle time and aging report for SHCP claims, containing the same elements and timeliness breakouts as submitted for other TRICARE claims.

(2) The contractor shall send a copy of the SHCP Timeliness Reports to the Lead Agents; Chief Financial Officer, TMA; and to the Chief, Contractor Evaluation Office, TMA.

e. Pharmacy Reports

The contractor shall prepare and submit monthly an SHCP pharmacy report detailing pharmacy claims the contractor paid without a prior authorization in the system for a specific episode of care. This pharmacy report will be prepared for each branch of service as well as one pharmacy report which shows the cumulative totals for all services. The following data elements shall be included in the pharmacy reports:

- (1) DMIS ID Code
- (2) Patient Name
- (3) Patient SSAN (or sponsor SSAN if not available)
- (4) Date of Service
- (5) Principal Diagnosis Code
- (6) Principal Diagnosis Code Description
- (7) Principal CPT-4 Code
- (8) Principal CPT-4 Code Description

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- (9) NDC for Pharmacy Claim
- (10) NDC Description for Pharmacy Claim
- (11) Total Pharmacy Dollars Paid

4. SHCP Claims Listing

Throughout the period of the contract, the contractor shall have the ability to produce, when requested by TMA, a hardcopy listing of all SHCP claims processed to completion for any given month(s) to substantiate the contractor's SHCP vouchers to TMA (see [Section IV.](#)). The listing shall include the following data elements: referring DMIS ID code, ICN, patient's SSN, and the date the claim was processed to completion. This list shall be presented in ascending DMIS code order.

K. Contractor's Responsibility to Respond to Inquiries

Inquiries relating to the SHCP need not be tracked nor reported separately from other inquiries received by the contractor.

1. Telephonic Inquiries

a. All inquiries to the contractor should come from MTFs/claims offices, the Service Project Officers or the TMA. In some instances, inquiries may come from Congressional offices, patients or providers. To facilitate this process, the contractor shall provide a specific telephone number, different from the public toll-free number, for inquiries related to the SHCP Claims Program. The line shall be operational and continuously staffed according to the hours and schedule specified in the contractor's TRICARE contract for toll-free and other service phone lines. It is not required to be staffed on the same basis as Health Care Finder lines. It may be the same line as required in support of TRICARE Prime Remote under [OPM Part Three, Chapter 8](#) and may be the same line required under [OPM Part Three, Chapter 10](#).

b. The telephone response standards of [OPM Part One, Chapter 1, Section III.E.3.](#) shall apply to SHCP telephonic inquiries.

c. Congressional Telephonic Inquiries

The contractor shall refer any congressional telephonic inquiries to the referring MTF if the inquiry is related to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim. If it is a general congressional inquiry regarding the SHCP claims program, the contractor shall respond or refer the caller as appropriate.

d. Provider and Other Telephonic Inquiries

The contractor shall refer any other telephonic inquiries it receives, including calls from the provider, service member or the MTF patient, to the referring MTF if the inquiry pertains to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim. The contractor shall respond as appropriate to general inquiries regarding the SHCP.

2. Written Inquiries**a. Congressional Written Inquiries**

The contractor shall refer written congressional inquiries to the Service Project Officer of the referring MTF's branch of service if the inquiry is related to a specific claim. When referring the inquiry to the Service Project Officer, the contractor shall attach a copy of all supporting documentation related to the inquiry. If it is a general congressional inquiry regarding the SHCP, the contractor shall refer the inquiry to the TMA. The contractor shall refer all congressional written inquiries within *seventy-two (72)* hours of identifying the inquiry as relating to the SHCP. When referring the inquiry, the contractor shall also send a letter to the congressional office informing them of the action taken and providing them with the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity to which the congressional correspondence was transferred.

**b. Provider and Service Member (or MTF Patient)
Written Inquiries**

The contractor shall refer provider and service member or MTF patient written inquiries to the referring MTF if the inquiry pertains to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim, or to the caller's Service Project Officer if it is a general inquiry regarding the SHCP.

c. MTF Written Inquiries

The contractor shall provide a final written response to all written inquiries from the MTF within ten (10) work days of the receipt of the inquiry.

L. Dedicated SHCP Unit

The contractor may at their discretion establish a dedicated unit for all contractor responsibilities related to processing SHCP claims and responding to inquiries about the SHCP. Regardless of the existence of a dedicated unit, the contractor shall designate a point of contact for Government inquiries related to the SHCP.